

## Type I and II Ground Disturbing Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

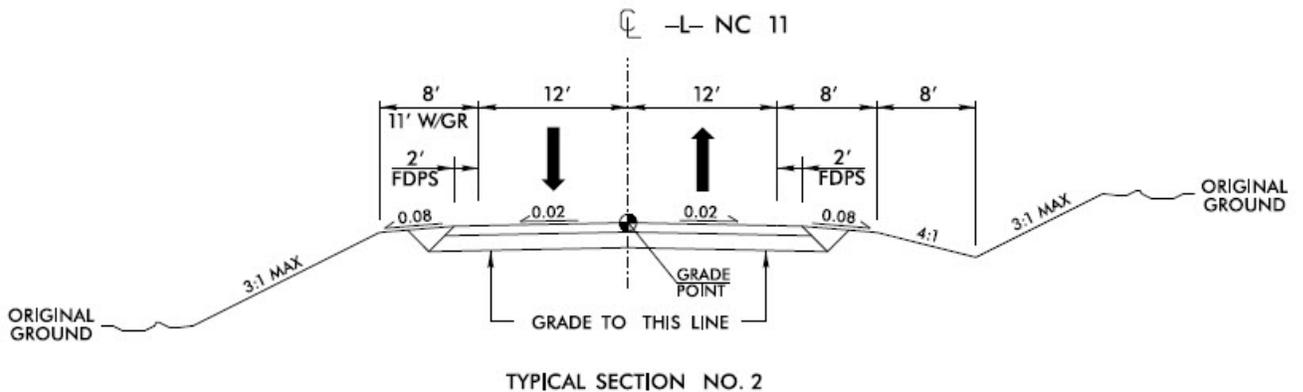
STIP Project No.	<b>BR-0017</b>
WBS Element	<b>67017.1.1</b>
Federal Project No.	<b>N/A</b>

**A. Project Description:**

The purpose of this project is to replace Duplin County Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek. Bridge No. 12 is 150 feet long. The replacement structure will be a bridge approximately 160 feet long providing a minimum 39-foot clear deck width. The new structure will include two 12-foot lanes, a 4-foot offset on the east side and an 11-foot offset on the west side to accommodate sight distance. The bridge length for each bridge is based on preliminary design information and is set by hydraulic requirements.

The approach roadway will extend approximately 400 feet from the south end and 150 feet from the north end of the new structure. The approaches will be widened to include a 24-foot pavement width providing two 12-foot lanes. The shoulders on either side will be 8-foot wide (11-foot wide where guardrail is to be included); that width will include a 2-foot full depth paved shoulder. The roadway will be designed as a Major Collector with a 50 mph design speed.

Traffic will be detoured off-site during construction (see Figure 1). The detour route for traffic would be NC 11 to NC 41 to US 117. Most traffic is through traffic and the trip from US 117 to NC 41 has a distance of approximately 1 mile. The detour would result in a 2.5 miles trip at approximately 3 minutes of additional travel time.



**B. Description of Need and Purpose:**

Bridge No. 12 – The bridge is 150 feet long with 28 feet of clear deck width. It has a sufficiency rating of 49 out of 100. The superstructure has a rating of 4 out of 9 which leads to the bridge being rated as structurally deficient.

Components of both the concrete superstructure have experienced a degree of deterioration that can no longer be addressed by maintenance activities. The bridge is approaching the end of its useful life.

C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification:

TYPE I A

D. Proposed Improvements –

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

E. Special Project Information:

**Alternatives Discussion:**

Offsite Detour (Preferred) - Bridge No. 12 will be replaced on the existing alignment. Traffic will be detoured offsite during the construction period. The detour route for traffic would be NC 11 to NC 41 to US 117. Duplin County Manager's office was contacted on two occasions however no response was received. The Town of Wallace was contacted in regards to emergency services and replied with ample notice that fire, ems, and law enforcement can make adequate plans to compensate for any additional travel times that might be incurred. Duplin County Schools commented that 14 bus crossings daily however they had no concerns with the detour route. The condition of all roads, bridges, and intersections are acceptable without improvement and NCDOT Division 3 concurs with the use of the detour.

**Design Issues:**

NC 11 is classified as a Major Collector. It carries approximately 3400 vehicles per day (vpd) in 2018 and projected to carry 4000 vpd in 2040. The facilities carries 3% Duals and 3% TTST's. No design exceptions are anticipated. Existing clear roadway is 28 ft. which will remain for the proposed. Current lanes will remain on the same alignment however there will be widening for sight distance to the west. The design speed will be 50 mph and the design will follow AASHTO guidelines.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations:**

There are no known pedestrian or bicycle facilities along the corridor, though the travel lanes of the roadway may be used by bicyclists. There are no known plans that specifically address bicycle or pedestrian accommodations at the bridge location. NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Unit recommended a minimum 4-foot shoulder. Additional width specifically for bicycle use will not be included due to lack of resources south of the bridge.

**Public Involvement:**

Land Owner Notification Letters were sent to property holders in the project footprint and no responses were received.

**Tribal Coordination:**

Project notifications and requests for comment were sent to the Catawba Indian Nation and Tuscarora Indian Nation's tribal historic preservation offices on November 13, 2019. No comments have been received to date.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

<u>Type I &amp; II - Ground Disturbing Actions</u>			
<u>FHWA APPROVAL ACTIVITIES THRESHOLD CRITERIA</u>			
If any of questions 1-7 are marked "yes" then the CE will require FHWA approval.		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If any of questions 8 through 31 are marked "yes" then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.			
<u>Other Considerations</u>		Yes	No
8	Does the project result in a finding of "may affect not likely to adversely affect" for listed species, or designated critical habitat under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Is the project located in anadromous fish spawning waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the NHPA effects determination other than a no effect, including archaeological remains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<u>Other Considerations (continued)</u>		Yes	No
15	Does the project involve hazardous materials and/or landfills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP or the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (where applicable)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT's Noise Policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F

**Question 1 – Endangered Species:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT for the northern long-eared

bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina. The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program is **May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect**. The PBO provides incidental take coverage for NLEB and will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for five years for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Duplin County, where BR-0017 is located. This level of incidental take is authorized from the effective date of a final listing determination through April 30, 2020. By way of guidance for FHWA, this specific circumstance does not result in a reply of “yes” to question 1 and does not trigger FHWA signature.

**Question 16 – Floodplain:** This project is located in a FEMA Limited Detail study. The project has a No Rise condition in the 100 year Base Flood Elevation and will comply with NCDOT/ North Carolina Floodplain Mapping MOA requirements.

**Question 25 – STIP:** While the project is not in the STIP, it is within the fiscally constrained state bridge program.

## H. Project Commitments

Duplin County  
BR-0017 Bridge #12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek  
WBS No.67017.1.1  
TIP No. BR-0017

### **NCDOT Division 3**

In order to have time to adequately reroute school busses, Duplin County Schools will be contacted at least one month prior to road closure.

Duplin County Emergency Services will be contacted at least one month prior to road closure to make the necessary temporary reassignments to primary response units.

### **NCDOT Hydraulics Unit**

The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), to determine status of project with regard to applicability of NCDOT'S Memorandum of Agreement, or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

### **NCDOT Division 3 Construction, Resident Engineer's Office**

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

### **NCDOT Division 3 Construction, Resident Engineer's Office**

Due to proximity of the Henderson Field Airport, coordination between the contractor and the **Federal Aviation Administration** will need to occur prior to construction in order to complete form 7460.

I. Categorical Exclusion Approval

STIP Project No.	<b>BR-0017</b>
WBS Element	<b>67017.1.1</b>
Federal Project No.	<b>N/A</b>

**Prepared By:**

12/16/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Mack C. Rivenbark III*

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Chris Rivenbark, ECAP Eastern Team Lead  
Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

**Prepared For:**

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Structures Management Unit

**Reviewed By:**

12/16/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Phil Harris*

8C1643F6874A457...

Philip S. Harris, III, PE Unit Head – Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

**Approved**

If all of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered “no,” NCDOT approves this Categorical Exclusion.

**Certified**

If any of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered “yes,” NCDOT certifies this Categorical Exclusion.

12/19/2019

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Kevin Fischer*

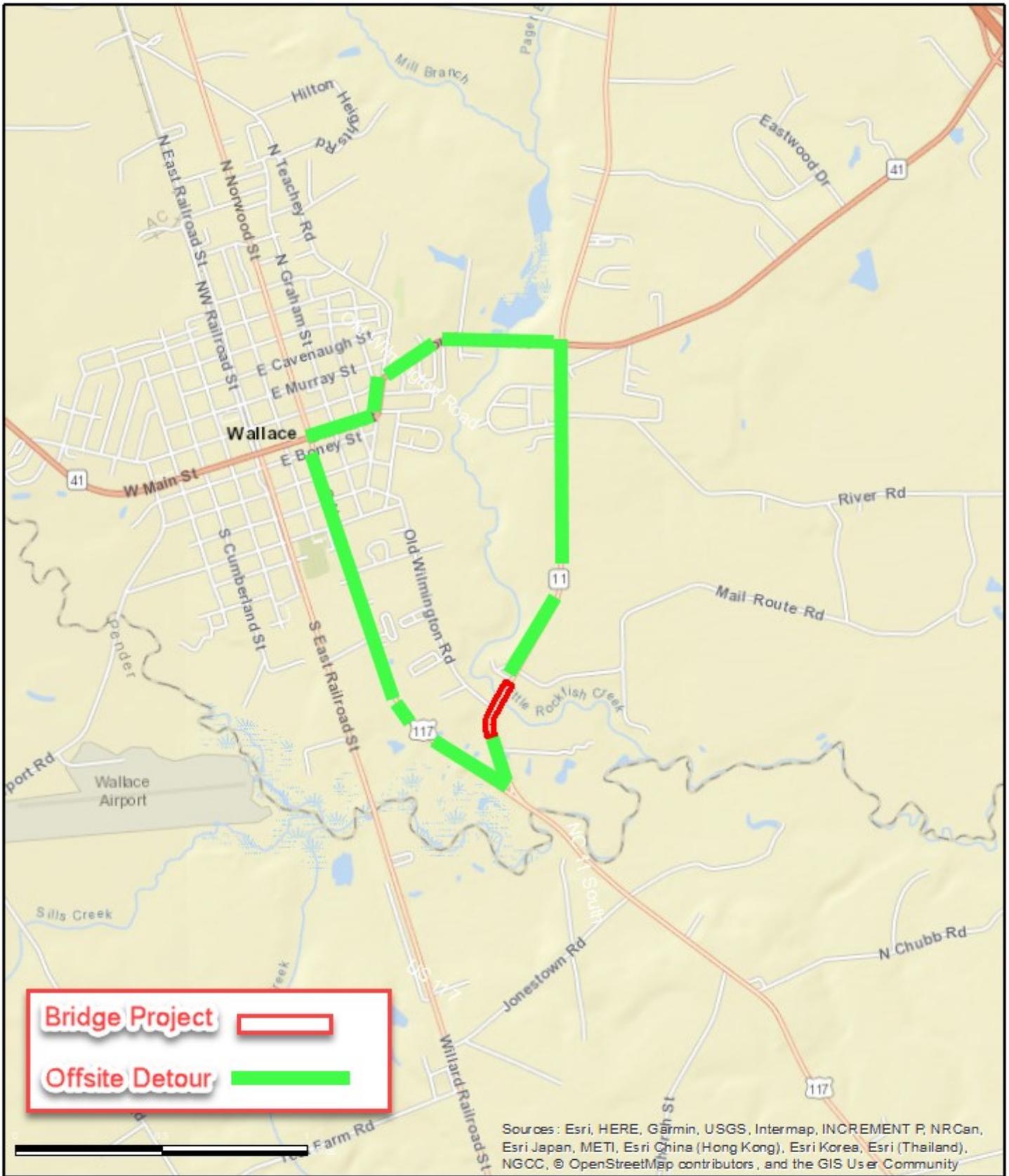
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Kevin Fischer, PE Assistant State Structures Engineer – Program Management and Field Operations, Structures Management Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

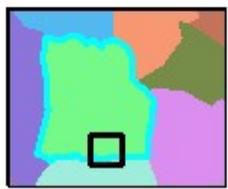
FHWA Approved: For Projects Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature required.

Date

N/A  
John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration



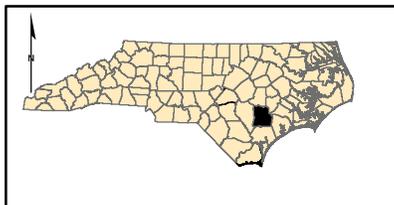
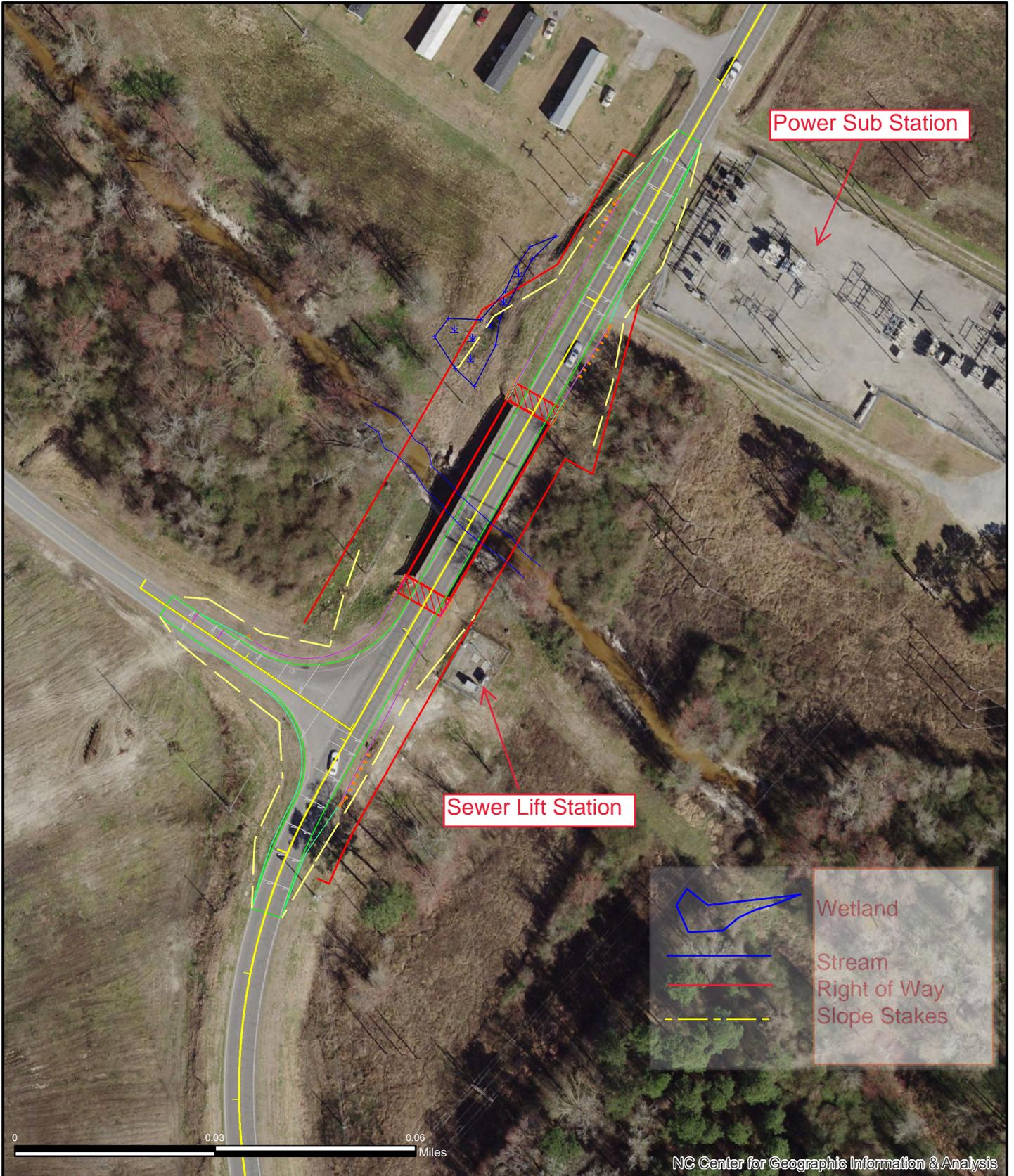
**BR-0017**  
*Duplin County*  
 Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 South  
 over Little Rockfish Creek



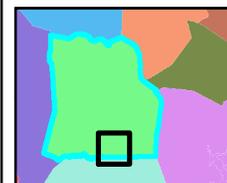
**FIGURE 1**



Prepared by  
 NCDOT  
 Environmental Analysis Unit



**BR-0017**  
*Duplin County*  
 Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 South  
 over Little Rockfish Creek



**FIGURE 2**



Prepared by  
 NCDOT  
 Environmental Analysis Unit



## NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REQUIRED FORM

This form only pertains to ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES for this project. It is not valid for Historic Architecture and Landscapes. You must consult separately with the Historic Architecture and Landscapes Group.



### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: **Br-0017** County: **Duplin**  
 WBS No: **67017.1.1** Document: **M C C**  
 F.A. No: Funding:  State  Federal

Federal Permit Required?  Yes  No Permit Type: **usace**

**Project Description:** NCDOT proposes to replace Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek in southern Duplin County southeast of Wallace. No alternative designs were available for use prepared for use during the archaeological review. However, a replace in place construction is likely with an available route used for an offsite detour. For purposes of this review, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is the length of the entire provided study area, about 1000 feet, with a width of 150 feet, all centered around the existing small Bridge No. 12, built in the 1920s and rehabilitated in later years, which is to be replaced. This APE allows for and considers shifts and a wider alignments and would include any needed new ROW, fill and cut lines, or construction easements. While this is a state funded project, USACE permitting is required, therefore Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

#### *Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:*

The bridge to be replaced is located along NC 11 in a rural setting southeast of Wallace. USGS mapping (Wallace East) and aerial photography was studied (see Figures 1 and 2). Google street view tools was used and confirm the conditions immediately around the exiting bridge, a combination of agricultural fields, low lying and somewhat wet cleared lots, a mobile home park and two utilities stations, the one on the northeast quadrant being quite large.

According to USGS mapping and GIS resources (data layer created by NCDOT archaeologist Paul J. Mohler), no cemetery is present at the APE. USGS mapping and the GIS layer does however show the presence of a cemetery a short distance to the southeast at the northeast intersection of NC 11 and the access to the sewage plant, Wastetreatment Plant Road. It appears outside of the APE and should be avoided, however, if it may be impacted, please contact our office for further input.

Historic maps were examined to determine if any late historic structures, roads or other notations were present to help establish the a context of the recent past, especially farms, industry, land and transportation features which might offer hints to the presence of archaeological sites. The 1905 Soils Map of Duplin County (Cm912.31 1905) shows similar road alignments but depicts little else of interest at the project area. A historic marker south of the APE in the vicinity of the cemetery or memorial commemorates the Battle of Rock Fish which is noted as 300 yards southeast.

Utilities are present at the project location very close to or within the APE, their installation adding to soil disturbances from the road construction. This includes an electric substation and maybe elements of the nearby sewage treatment plant.

The Office of State Archaeology was visited to review archaeological mapping and to reference any known archaeological surveys and sites. This helps establish an archaeological context for comparison. Several environmental reviews are nearby, with two adjacent to or crossing through the APE. Nearby the APE are archaeological reviews for a solar farm west of NC 11, electric stations, the sewage plant and lines, and a

17-12-0005

disaster debris site. Generally no archaeological surveys were recommended as a result of the reviews even though some were quite large compared to the current APE. Archaeological sites 31Pd1, 31DP10, and 31Dp35 are in the nearby vicinity though, at some distance away, they will not be impacted by the project.

***Brief Explanation of why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified historic properties in the APE:***

The bridge replacement will likely be in place though a wider, longer and/or taller bridge might be expected. Combined with an offsite detour, the project construction footprint is relatively smaller and has mostly already disturbed soils. There are no recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries within the APE. Previous environmental reviews in the very close vicinity, some partially overlapping the current APE, have not resulted in recommendations for archeological surveys or resulted in identifying new sites. The perimeter of the roadway approaches have been modified by construction, grading, agriculture and utilities.

The context doesn't indicate a high probability for archaeological sites within the APE. It is unlikely that significant, intact archaeological remains would be present and impacted by the bridge replacement project. For archaeological review, this federally permitted undertaking should be considered compliant with Section 106.

**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

See attached:  Map(s)  Previous Survey Info  Photos  Correspondence  
 Photocopy of County Survey Notes  Other:

**FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST**

**NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED**



NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

**8/02/2018**

Date

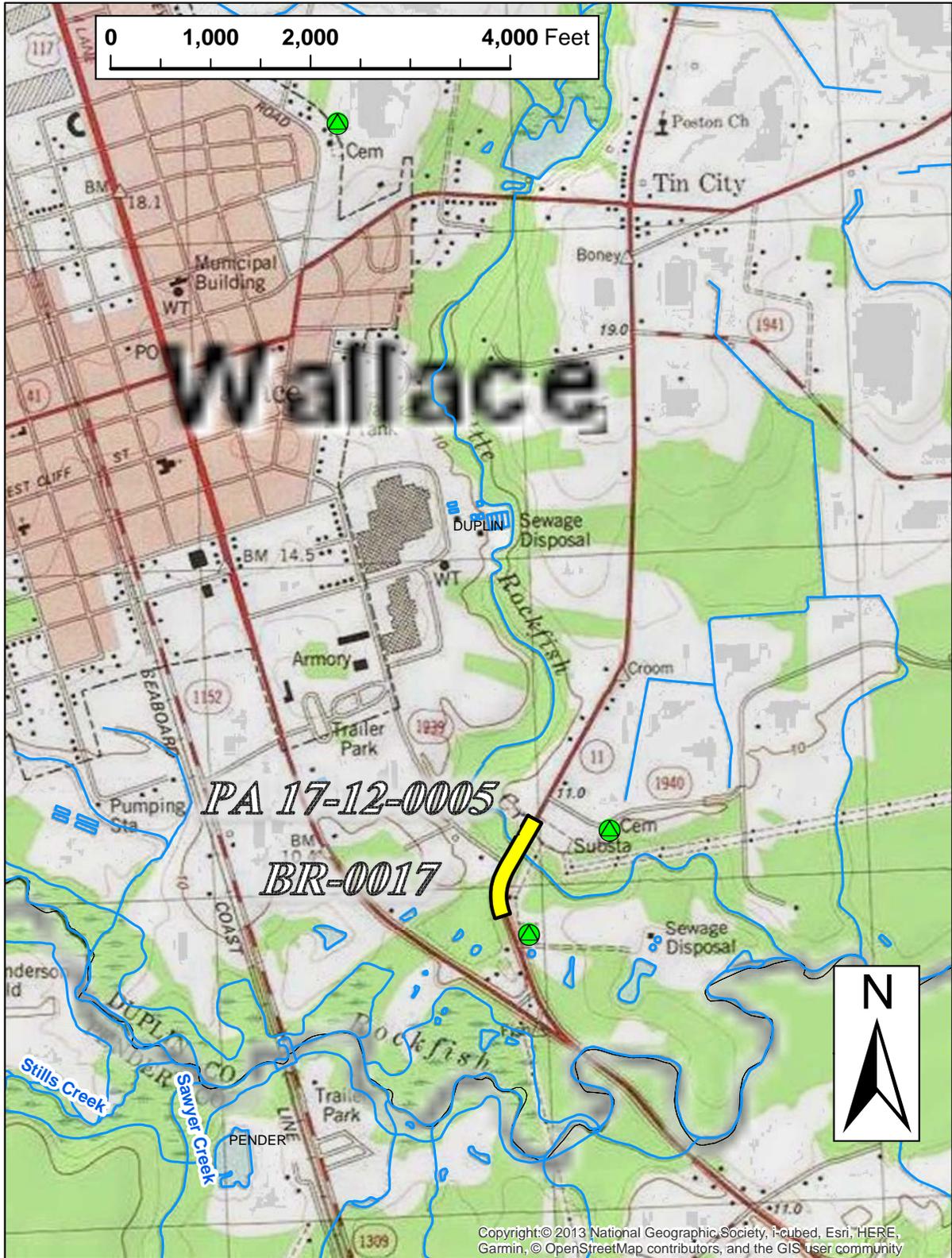
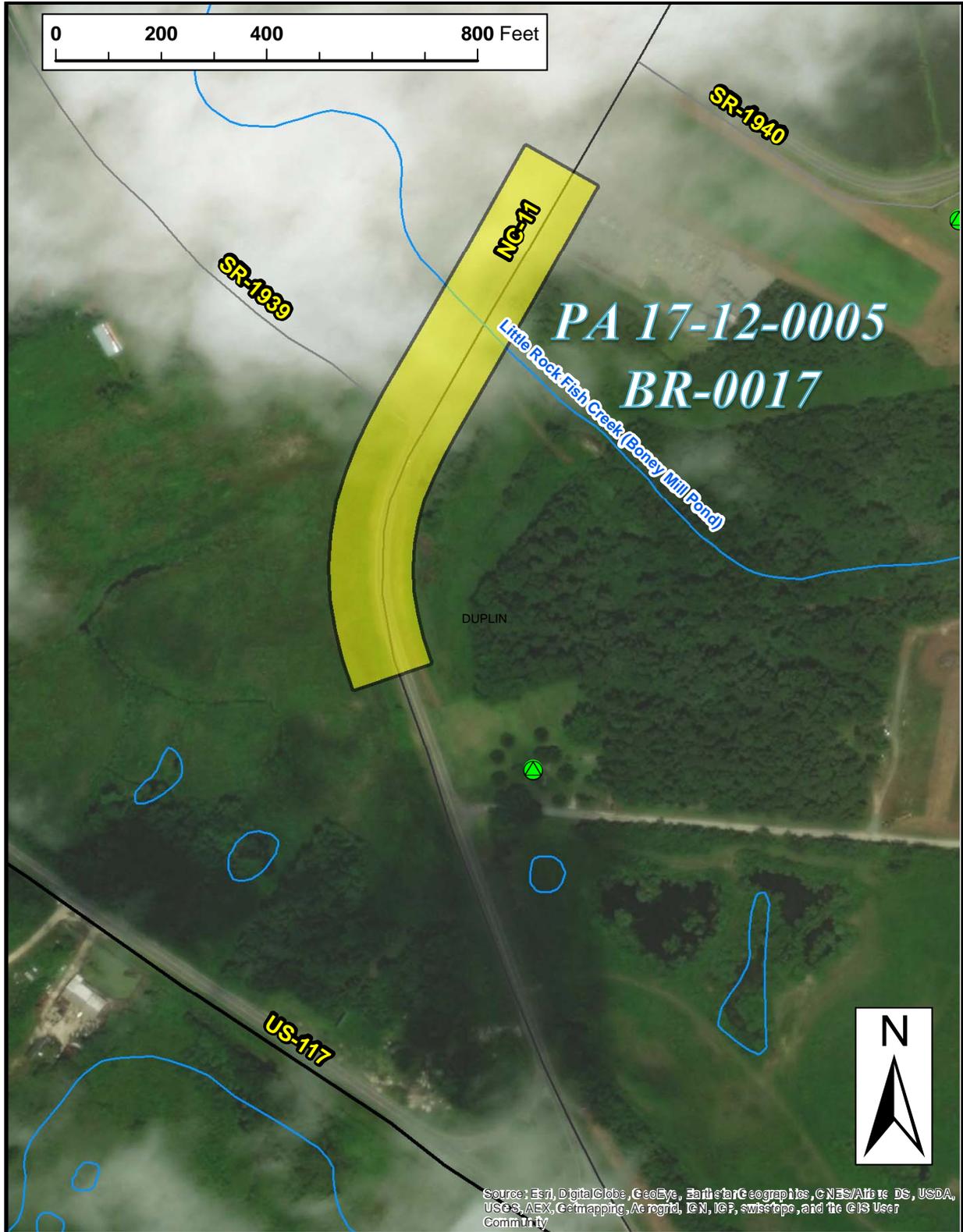


Figure 1. Vicinity of BR-0017, PA 17-12-0005, the proposed replacement of Br. No. 12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek southeast of Wallace in southern Duplin County, shown on USGS mapping (Wallace East). Nearby cemeteries are mapped with green circles and should be avoided.

"No ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED" form for the Amended Minor Transportation Projects as Qualified in the 2015 Programmatic Agreement.



**Figure 2. Aerial map of BR-0017, PA 17-12-0005, the proposed replacement of Br. No. 12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek. The approximate APE is shown in yellow. A historic marker and a cemetery is present a short distance southeast of the APE at the next intersection. The green markers note the presence of a cemetery but in this case is not necessarily the boundary. It appears that the nearby cemetery is outside of the APE and should not be affected.**

*"No ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED" form for the Amended Minor Transportation Projects as Qualified in the 2015 Programmatic Agreement.*

17-12-0005



## HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES NO SURVEY REQUIRED FORM

This form only pertains to Historic Architecture and Landscapes for this project. It is not valid for Archaeological Resources. You must consult separately with the Archaeology Group.

### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project No:</b>	BR-0017	<b>County:</b>	Duplin
<b>WBS No.:</b>	67017.1.1	<b>Document Type:</b>	
<b>Fed. Aid No:</b>		<b>Funding:</b>	X State    Federal
<b>Federal Permit(s):</b>	X Yes    No	<b>Permit Type(s):</b>	
<b>Project Description:</b> Replace Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 over Little Rockfish Creek (no off-site detour specified in review request).			

### SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES REVIEW

**DESCRIPTION OF REVIEW ACTIVITIES, RESULTS, AND CONCLUSIONS:** HPOWeb reviewed on 2 January 2018 and yielded no NR, SL, DE, LD, or SS properties in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). Duplin County current GIS mapping, aerial photography, and tax information indicated a mostly undeveloped APE with some woodland and residential resources dating to the 1990s (viewed 2 January 2018). Built in 1922 and rehabilitated in 1963, Bridge No. 12 is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places according to the NCDOT Historic Bridge Survey as it is neither technologically nor aesthetically significant. North Carolina Highway Historical Marker F-7 and a nearby sandstone obelisk, located on the east side of NC 11 at Waste Treatment Plant Road, commemorate the 1781 Battle of Rockfish, but are well outside the APE and beyond likely project impact. Google Maps "Street View" confirmed the absence of critical architectural and landscape resources in the APE (viewed 2 January 2018).

**No architectural survey is required for the project as currently defined.**

**WHY THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION PROVIDES A RELIABLE BASIS FOR REASONABLY PREDICTING THAT THERE ARE NO UNIDENTIFIED SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL OR LANDSCAPE RESOURCES IN THE PROJECT AREA:** APE extends approximately 500 feet from either end of the existing bridge (NE-SW) and 100 feet to either side of the NC 11 centerline (SE-NW) to encompass proposed construction activities. The comprehensive architectural survey of the county (1992-3) and related publication, as well as later studies recorded no resources in the APE (Jennifer F. Martin, *Along the Banks of the Old Northeast: the Historical and Architectural Development of Duplin County, North Carolina* (Rose Hill, NC: Duplin County Historical Foundation, Inc., 1999)). County GIS and other visuals illustrate the absence of significant architectural and landscape resources in the APE. No National Register-listed properties are located within the APE.

**Should any aspect of the project design change, please notify NCDOT Historic Architecture as additional review may be necessary.**

### SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

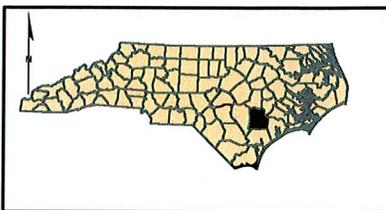
X Map(s)     Previous Survey Info.     Photos     Correspondence     Design Plans

### FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Historic Architecture and Landscapes - NO SURVEY REQUIRED

*Vanessa E. Patrick*  
NCDOT Architectural Historian

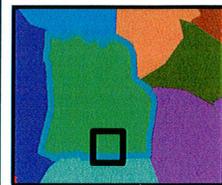
*8 January 2018*  
Date



# BR-0017

*Duplin County*

Bridge No. 12 on NC 11 South  
over Little Rockfish Creek



## FIGURE 1



Prepared by  
NCDOT  
Environmental Analysis Unit

Tracking No. 17-12-0005